

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCI-06 L-03 INT-08 COME-00

DLOS-06 EB-11 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 085487

R 011852Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5504

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY, PBOR, AR, CI, XV

SUBJECT: DRILLSHIP GLOMAR CHALLENGER

REF: A) BA-9351, 28 DEC 73; (B) STATE 17134

1. "MAYORIA" AND "LA NACION" OF FEB 26 BOTH CARRY ANSA STORY DATED SANTIAGO RE PLANS FOR DRILLING PROGRAM OF GLOMAR CHALLENGER. STORY ATTRIBUTED TO INTERVIEWS WITH SHIP'S CREW IN VALPARAISO. "MAYORIA" HEADLINED STORY "USA SEARCHES FOR PETROLEUM IN ARGENTINE WATERS."

2. ANSA STORY STATES SHIP WILL DRILL INTO CONTINENTAL SHELF AND SLOPE, AND WILL QUANTIFY ENERGY RESOURCES WHICH EXIST IN ANTARCTICA. IT STATES THAT SHIP WILL VISIT QUOTE THE ARGENTINE NAVAL BASE OF USHUAIA UNQUOTE, THEN WILL DRILL IN THE OCEAN BOTTOM. "MAYORIA" VERSION INDICATES SHIP FIRST EN ROUTE TO "CHILEAN ANTARCTIC".

3. "MAYORIA" ADDS ITS OWN COMMENT THAT THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS WILL IN LARGE PART BE IN THE ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC SECTOR. THE SO-CALLED "CHILEAN ANTARCTIC" REFERS TO CHILE'S MUCH LATER CLAIM, AND, SAYS "MAYORIA", IS REALLY ARGENTINE TERRITORY.

4. ARGENTINE OCEANOGRAPHER ALBERTO LONARDI (WHO IS PLANNING

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TO BE ON SHIP ON USHUAIA TO RIO LEG) VISITED SCIATT FOLLOWING

APPEARANCE THESE STORIES IN PRESS. LONARDI IS NOW CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEMS CREATED BY GLOMAR CHALLENGER PROGRAM, AND, IN PARTICULAR, DRILL SITES 1 AND 2 OF LEG 36 WHICH HE REGARDS AS IN WATERS UNDER ARGENTINE JURISDICTION. (LONARDI APPEARED BETTER INFORMED THAN WE ON EXACT SITES, NOW PROPOSED. HE INDICATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT CHANGES.) LONARDI STOPPED SHORT OF SUGGESTING THAT USG SEEK GOA PERMISSION FOR THESE DRILLINGS, NOTING THAT DRILLING IN SUCH DEEP WATER WAS NOT CLEAR-CUT CASE UNDER ARGENTINE LAW, BUT HINGED ON WHETHER THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMICAL RECOVERY OF RESOURCES FOUND. LONARDI CLEARLY IS WORRIED, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE IS ALSO SEEKING OFFICIAL GOA APPROVAL (VIA CONICET) FOR HIS PARTICIPATION ON THIS CRUISE.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO RE-EXAMINE DRILLING PROGRAM FOR REASONS STATED REFTEL A AND TO RECONSIDER ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AS STATED THEREIN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, DRILLING, PETROLEUM, GLOMAR CHALLENGER, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**TAGS:** TPHY, PBOR, AR, CI, XV  
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